



EPA Asking for Residents' Help With Lead Cleanup

Commodity Metals Site
Hamtramck, Michigan

May 2007

Contact information

For questions, comments or additional information about the lead sampling in neighborhoods near the Commodity Metals site you can contact these EPA representatives:

Dave Novak

EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 5 Chicago
Toll free: 800-621-8431, Ext. 67478,
weekdays 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
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James Justice

EPA On-Scene Coordinator
EPA Region 5
Grosse Ile, Mich.
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Brian Kelly

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Project Offices (located in trailer on corner of Grand Haven and Commor streets): 313-865-9934

Document file

Official documents and records about the Commodity Metals site and neighborhood lead contamination are available for review at the Hamtramck Public Library, 2360 Caniff St.

In May U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will resume free sampling and, if necessary, removing and replacing contaminated soil containing high lead levels from neighborhoods near a former Hamtramck smelter. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality asked for EPA's assistance in removing and replacing the contaminated soil, which was discovered in 2003 and 2004. Lead is a dangerous metal that gets into the bloodstream and affects the development of children and unborn babies the most.

Last fall, EPA cleaned up 84 properties. The work was done on properties between Caniff and Commor streets on Grand Haven, Dyar, Dequindre, Nagel, St. Aubin and Lumpkin streets. This neighborhood is next to the site of a former lead smelter called Commodity Metals. Commodity Metals is suspected as the source of airborne lead particles settling on the ground in the area. This spring, an additional 45 properties still need attention. However, of these 45, 40 require access agreements. Before any of the no-cost tests or soil removal can be done, EPA and MDEQ need written permission from property owners.

Most of the properties targeted for sampling this spring lie east of Interstate 75 on Nagel, St. Aubin or Lumpkin between Caniff and Commor streets. A few remain west of the Interstate as well. EPA asks for your help in signing the access agreement or getting your landlord or property owner to sign the form. Signed access agreements can be dropped off at the EPA project trailers on the corner of Commor and Grand Haven streets. You may also contact EPA representatives (*see left-hand column*) to pick up signed forms. EPA encourages property owners to take advantage of this opportunity to have their soil sampled and cleaned up this spring for free while environmental personnel are in the area.

If you have already signed an access agreement to have the testing or work done we offer our sincere thanks for your cooperation and patience.

Taking care of the lead contamination is important. If the tested yards are found to contain excessive lead levels, contractors are replacing contaminated soil with clean dirt and returning the yards to near-original condition at **no cost**.

We hope to complete the testing and, if needed, the removal and replacement of contaminated soil within this area by the end of this summer.